



GOOD PITCH AUSTRALIA RECEIVES \$2M IN FUNDING SUPPORT OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Good Pitch Australia, which will host its third and final documentary pitching event at the Sydney Opera House tomorrow, has announced that it will receive \$2 million from the Shark Island Institute to fund the operations of Good Pitch Australia over the next five years.

Shark Island Institute is the philanthropic arm of Ian Darling's Shark Island Productions. Inspired by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, Shark Island Institute supports the art of documentary filmmaking and storytelling, bringing filmmakers, philanthropists, not-for-profits, artists, audiences and storytellers together in a variety of creative spaces.

The \$2 million commitment from the Shark Island Institute will enable Good Pitch Australia to provide ongoing management support to the 19 Good Pitch Australia documentaries in the portfolio, including the six new films and their social impact campaigns, to be presented at the Sydney Opera House tomorrow.

In addition, this financial support will fund an annual series of "Good Pitch Impact Labs" at the Shark Island Institute, for 20 selected filmmakers (both established and emerging) over the next five years.

Good Pitch, which is held in various major cities around the world, is an initiative of BRITDOC and the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, supported by the Ford Foundation.

In Australia, Good Pitch is hosted by the Shark Island Institute in partnership with the Documentary Australia Foundation.

Malinda Wink, Executive Director of Good Pitch Australia, recognized for her work in this year's Australian Financial Review & Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards said: "At Good Pitch we have demonstrated the power of matching documentary story-telling with cross-sector partnerships to create change across a diversity of social justice issues. The commitment from Shark Island Institute enables our team to continue this important work across our 19 projects and the documentary sector for the next five years - nurturing the partnerships that make our films powerful, and building impact campaigns that are influencing policy, shifting consciousness and changing behaviour."

The Documentary Australia Foundation, headed by CEO Mitzi Goldman, will continue to play an active role in Good Pitch Australia, and partner with the Shark Island Institute over the next five years.

The Good Pitch Australia events held in 2014 and 2015 raised over \$7.5 million in philanthropic grants for the funding of social impact documentaries and their impact campaigns, forging more than 200 powerful strategic partnerships between community groups, the corporate sector, NGOs and policy makers. The films to date that have been the beneficiaries of this philanthropic support include: *That Sugar Film*, *Gayby Baby*, *Call Me Dad*, *The Opposition*, *Frackman*, *Zach's Ceremony*, *Constance on the Edge*, *Blue*, *The Hunting Ground Australia Project*, *Happy Sad Man*, *On Richard's Side*, *Prison Songs* and *Whiteley*.

Good Pitch Australia 2016 will be presenting the following films tomorrow at the Sydney Opera House: *2040*, (environment, sustainability and innovation), *Ghosthunter* (adult survivors of child trauma), *Dying To Live* (organ and tissue donation), *Kids* (Indigenous education and culture), *Beautiful Minds* (women in science and STEM) and *Guilty* (ending the death penalty).

Ian Darling, Executive Director of Shark Island Institute, said: "We are delighted to support Good Pitch in Australia for the next five years. Whilst this will be the final Good Pitch Australia event, there's still much work to do with 19 documentary projects in the portfolio. We want to ensure Good Pitch can deliver at the highest possible standard and provide an outstanding return on social capital for the philanthropic donors, the not-for-profit partners and the documentary filmmakers."

Beadie Finzi, Director, The BRITDOC Foundation, said: "It is deeply impressive to see the impact that Shark Island Institute, Documentary Australia Foundation and the Good Pitch Australia team have had on the independent film scene in Australia, creating a more sustainable and ambitious future for the nation's storytellers. We couldn't be prouder to partner with them and look forward to supporting them and all the Good Pitch film teams as they continue through production and into their impact campaigns. Here's to the next five years!"

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